

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMA  
PRESIDENT DR. DAN "STORMY"  
JOHNSON

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Dan "Stormy" Johnson who is currently serving as president of the American Medical Association. Dr. Johnson is only the fourth native Texan to hold this national position, and the first from my district. He is being honored tomorrow night at a recognition dinner in Port Arthur, TX. Dr. Johnson was born in Port Arthur and received his M.D. degree from the University of Texas at Galveston. He has been active in organized medicine for many years, and prior to his service as president of the AMA, Dr. Johnson served both as speaker and vice speaker of the AMA House of Delegates. It is a true honor to have such an outstanding individual and medical leader come from Port Arthur, TX, in my district.

Dr. Johnson's commitment to the medical field is legendary and his pursuits within this profession leave him worthy of our recognition. He was cofounder and president of the American Society of Head and Neck Radiology and he is also a past president and past chair of the board of the New Orleans Radiology Society. Dr. Johnson has also served in his community for many years on the boards of the Louisiana State Museum and its support group, the Friends of the Cabildo. He has lectured extensively throughout the United States on many issues of health care reform, most notably on financing the delivery of health care. Some of Dr. Johnson's ideas to improve the cost effectiveness of our health care system include using the concepts of pluralism and patient choice. These innovative ideas have helped in the debate on the importance of health care reform.

I applaud Dr. Johnson for his dedication to the medical profession and I send him my sincere congratulations for his achievements within this field. I look forward to attending the recognition dinner in his honor so that I may personally be able to congratulate Dr. Johnson on his special day.

THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO  
KNOW WHO'S MONEY IS BEHIND  
A CANDIDATE—THE CAMPAIGNS  
IN THE SUNSHINE ACT WILL  
SOLVE THAT PROBLEM

**HON. STEPHEN HORN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I add one more piece to the pile of legislative proposals related to reform of our campaign finance laws. In doing so, I recognize that this is the issue most frequently mentioned and, so far, least frequently addressed in this Congress. This seems to reflect the public's attitude that this is the one problem we most need to solve and that we are least likely to tackle.

My own views and my legislative efforts on campaign finance cover the proverbial water-

front. I support proposals ranging from immediate action under the Shays-Meehan comprehensive reform bill to the more protracted steps called for in the bipartisan blue ribbon commission bill. In short, I believe we here in Congress should overhaul a campaign finance system that has been riddled with loopholes from Supreme Court rulings and the ingenious schemes of legions of lawyers and consultants. But I am aware of the substantial and probably well-founded view that we will not do so.

There is, in fact, reasonable cause to think we should not take this job because there simply are too many agendas, too many self-interests, too many conflicts of interest when those of us who hold public office attempt to write rules for how others can unseat us. The popular view is that having politicians write campaign finance laws is like having sharks organize a swim meet. For that reason, I support the bipartisan bill to create a nonpartisan commission on this issue. The goal of this approach is to allow nonpoliticians with no specific, personal axes to grind to take a good look at this issue and try to come to practical, sound steps that will provide a level playing field for our election campaigns.

But I am aware that the commission approach also faces many objections and may never move from proposal to reality. For that reason, I am introducing a third approach that will allow us to immediately address what I believe to be the most serious problem in the campaign finance arena while we work out further steps toward comprehensive action. I would like to believe this bill will not face any opposition from any quarter—though on campaign finance I have learned that opposition needs no cause to exist.

The bill I am introducing today is the most basic step possible in campaign finance reform. This bill simply requires full disclosure of all sources of all campaign funds. That is all. It does not stop so-called soft money from being raised or spent. It simply requires that all soft money be identified by source. This bill does not ban or limit so-called independent expenditures which we all know are seldom independent in any real sense and which I believe are the most damaging and dangerous development in our political system in many years. Even so, I do not try to outlaw these expenditures. My bill simply requires that the sources of funds for the expenditure must be identified in the same way that we require disclosure by every candidate committee.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill is a straightforward statement that anyone can become involved in our campaigns, but everyone must come out into the sunshine and reveal their identities. In doing so, everyone is subject to the same scrutiny by the media and the voters as to their agenda and goals, their tactics and rhetoric and their influence on our elections.

Mr. Speaker, there has been great and legitimate concern about reports that some foreign governments may have secretly influenced last year's Presidential or congressional campaigns through covert campaign contributions to candidates. Our Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, on which I serve, has begun investigating these reports, as we should.

However, I would note the real impact of foreign money may never be known and can never be learned. The simple reality is that these activities could well be cloaked behind

so-called "independent expenditures" by some innocuous sounding organization like the Committee for Something or Other. Pick any name, pour any amount of money into it from any source on Earth and it can become a major player in our political campaigns. Our current campaign finance laws have no real prohibition on this kind of activity, no real way of policing such activity and no serious way to enforce any sanction we might want to impose for such activity. In short, the current laws are a joke, brought to us by a Supreme Court that seems convinced that freedom of speech can and should be equated with the ability to spend.

At a minimum, Mr. Speaker, at the absolute minimum, we must pass the kind of disclosure bill I am introducing today. At the very least, the people of this country deserve to know who is spending money to influence their vote. At the very least, our system must be protected from secret persuaders, whether foreign or domestic, who want to play the game but do not want to follow even the simplest rules of fair play and open debate.

Democracy rests on the firm foundation of open and free debate, where every viewpoint can be presented and every cause can be examined. To allow secret causes to be cloaked in anonymity is to allow democracy to be subverted from the shadows. That is the reality of our current laws and that is what we must change this year. It is time to enact legislation that creates campaigns where the identity of the attacker is revealed, where the merits of the attack can be examined and where the ability of the voters to decide for themselves is protected.

It is time to reverse the steady unraveling of our laws on campaign activity and to stop absurd and dangerous practices that destroy public trust and undermine democracy itself. It is time to require that our campaigns be conducted in the sunshine where the disinfectant of full disclosure can work its wonder.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and many other colleagues for joining in sponsoring this legislation and I commend these proposals to all Members of the House as a bill well deserving of their support.

We need to pass this legislation because the average voting citizens has a right to know what interests, if any, relate to a candidate for public office. Attached is the bill and its original cosponsors.

H.R. 1705

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Campaigns in the Sunshine Act of 1997."

**SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971 TO CERTAIN EXPENDITURES.**

(a) SOFT MONEY EXPENDITURES OF POLITICAL PARTIES.—Section 304(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (7);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) in the case of a reporting committee which is a political party committee, any information which would otherwise be required